

Gallatin National Forest
Travel Management Plan Project
Detailed Description of the Alternatives Document Briefing Paper

September 30, 2004

On October 4, 2004 the Gallatin National Forest will publicly release the Detailed Description of the Alternatives document. This document is a component of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement that will be released early January 2005.

Alternative 7 is the preferred alternative and is included in the Detailed Description of the Alternatives document. The document also provides information about the six additional alternatives, including detailed route by route tables. The Forest chose to release this document before releasing the Draft EIS as it is taking longer than expected to complete the entire analysis package. In addition, the Forest wanted to give people an opportunity to look at the differences between alternatives and how their favorite area, road, or trail may be affected prior to snow closing off most of these areas.

The alternatives presented in this document are based on specialist's effects analysis. The effects analysis is complete and the Forest is compiling it. The analysis will be presented in the Draft EIS.

The Alternatives document and associated maps will available in electronic format only (CD and internet). Hard copies, including maps are available for viewing at all Gallatin National Forest offices and at the Bozeman and Livingston Public Libraries. There are no public meetings being scheduled to discuss this document. In addition, the release of this document does not initiate a comment period. A formal comment period will begin with the release of the Draft EIS.

Background

Scoping to determine potential issues and concerns associated with the Gallatin Forest's Travel Plan Management project was conducted over a two year period, beginning in 2002. Two documents have been released since 2002 and scoping comments have been solicited on both document. The Benchmark document was released in 2002 and the Alternatives document was released in 2003. A Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement was developed for this project and appeared in the Federal Register on December 13, 2002.